BOOK II

Tell Me Stories

TELL ME STORIES

BOOK II

(Short Stories for Children)

By

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Sheila Subbramanian

With a foreword by
(Miss) **S. K. Ram**

AMBAR PARKASHAN

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FOREWORD

Reading has become indispensable in the world of today. It is the most potential instrument of education. The young pupil while learning English will develop a taste for reading if the material given to him is linguistically simple and thematically interesting. The authors of this series have kept these two principles in mind. The language of the series is simple and provides a good sample of modern English usage. The content of the books is exciting. The series contain stories and dialogues which cover a wide gamut of experiences extending from simple descriptions of events to the narration of tales, anecdotes, myths and legends. A sincere effort has been made to select stories which have not become stereotyped and which have an element of wit and humour. I feel that this set of books will contribute materially towards instilling in the pupils a love for reading.

(Miss) S. K. Ram

Reader

National Council of Educational Research & Training

New Delhi

PREFACE

The TELL ME STORIES series consists of six books. They are designed to be used as Supplementary Readers for classes III to VIII. The language, that is, the grammatical constructions and lexical items of this series has been carefully controlled and graded. Sometimes the use of a few new content words of not very high frequency has become inevitable. These words, however, will not obstruct comprehension in any way as their meaning is brought out by the context in which they have been used and by the illustrations. The stories in this series are interesting and meet the needs and interests of different types of pupils. The exercises aim at promoting

(a) global comprehension by highlighting important events and attributes of characters and

(b) deep comprehension by making the child draw conclusions, form opinions and value judgements.

We are deeply indebted to Miss S. K. Ram without whose inspiration and guidance it would not have been possible to prepare this series.

We would welcome the comments and suggestions of pupils and teachers which would help us in improving the next edition of this series.

Nirmala Vaidyanathan
Sheila Subbramanian

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1. THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

PART I

Once upon a time there were three little pigs. Their names were Funny, Fatty and Frisky. They lived in a forest with their parents. One day they told their mother, "Today we're leaving home. We're going to live on our own." Their mother blessed them and said, "Build strong houses and look after yourselves."

Funny passed through a village. He met a farmer. He asked him, "What have you got, my friend?" "I've got straw," the man replied. Funny said, "I'm going to build a house. Please give me your straw."

The man gave him many bundles of straw.

Funny built a house of straw. A wicked wolf saw Funny's house. He went there and called out, "Mr Funny, may I come in?" "No," replied Funny. The wolf said, "Then I'm going to puff and blow and puff and blow. Your house is going to fall down." The wolf puffed and blew and the house fell down. The wolf caught Funny and ate him up.

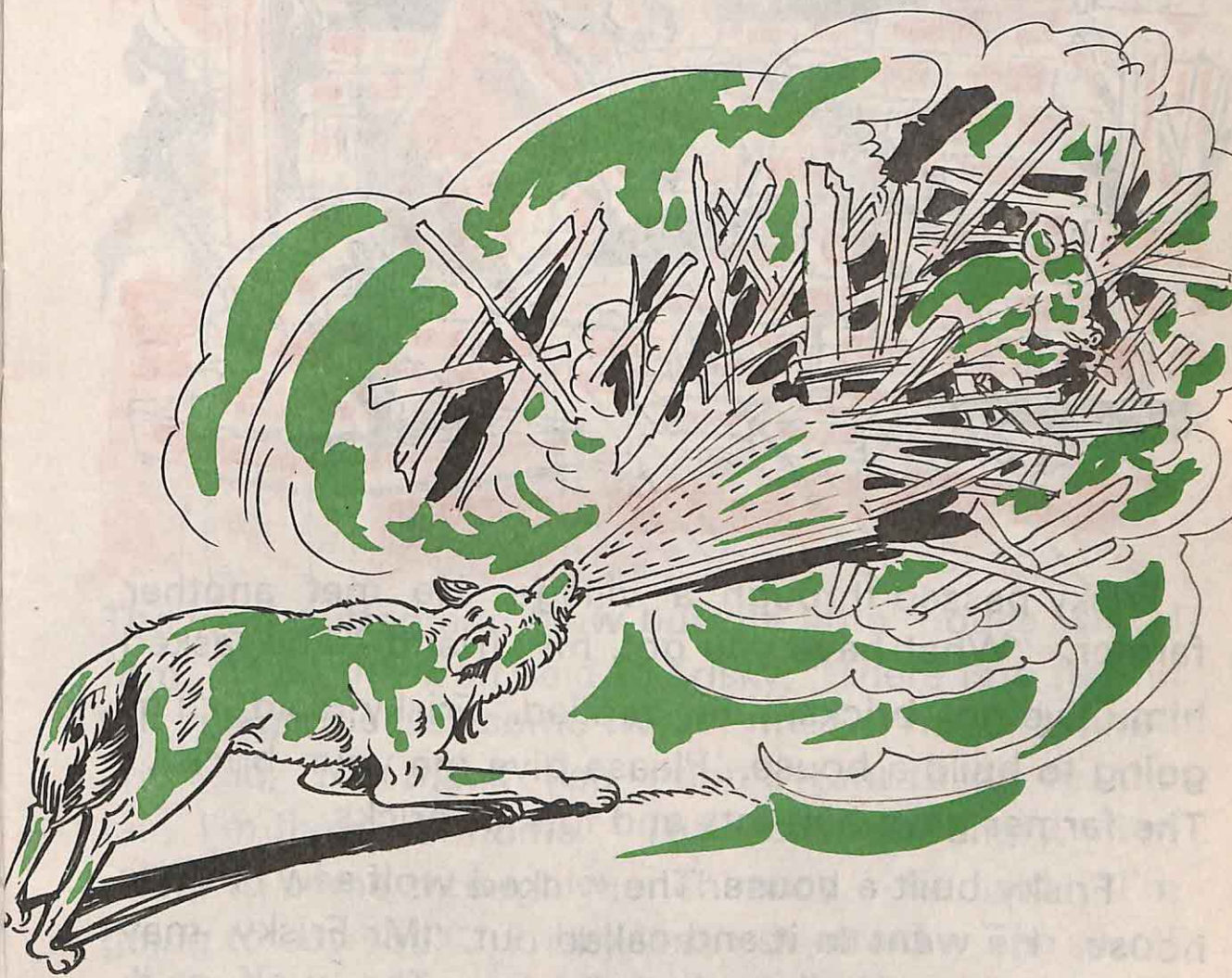
Fatty passed through a village. He met a shepherd. "What have you got, my friend?" he asked, "I've got sticks," the man replied. Fatty said, "I'm going to build a house. Please give me your sticks."

The man gave him many bundles of sticks. Fatty built a house. The wicked wolf saw Fatty's house. He went to it and called out, "Mr Fatty, may I come in?" "No", replied Fatty. The wolf said, "Then I'm going to puff and blow and puff and blow. Your house is going to fall down." The wolf puffed and blew and Fatty's house fell down. The wolf caught Fatty and ate him up.

EXERCISES

Strike off the incorrect word or words given in brackets :

1. The three little pigs lived in a (garden/forest).
2. A house of straw is (strong/not strong).
3. The wolf (blew/hit) at Fatty's house and it fell down.
4. The wolf was (kind/cruel).



2. THE THREE LITTLE PIGS
PART II

Frisky passed through a village. He met another farmer. "What have you got, my friend?" he asked him. "I've got bricks," he replied. Frisky said, "I'm going to build a house. Please give me your bricks." The farmer gave him lots and lots of bricks.

Frisky built a house. The wicked wolf saw Frisky's house. He went to it and called out, "Mr Frisky, may I come in?" "No," replied Frisky. The wolf said, "Then I'm going to puff and blow, and puff and blow. Your house is going to fall down." Frisky said nothing.

The wolf puffed and blew but the little house stood firm. Then the wolf said to Frisky, "There is a fair in the village. Please come with me." Frisky laughed and said, "No, thank you. I don't want to go to the fair. I'm happy at home." The wolf was angry. "I'm going to come through the chimney," he said. "I'm going to eat you." Frisky was not afraid. The wolf climbed the roof. He went into the chimney. There was a huge fire under it. The wicked wolf fell into the fire and died.

EXERCISES

Select the correct answer from the given list of alternatives :

1. The wolf went to Frisky's house
   (a) to see him
   (b) to call on him
   (c) to eat him
2. The wolf puffed and blew but the little house stood firm.
   (a) It was made of straw.
   (b) It was made of bricks.
   (c) It was made of sticks.
3. The pigs' mother said, "Build strong houses."
   (a) Frisky
   (b) Fatty
   (c) Funny

— followed his mother's advice.

4. (a) The wolf
   (b) Frisky
   (c) Frisky's mother

— was foolish and died.

3. HOW I BECAME A BUTTERFLY

One day a butterfly flew into a garden. There were red, blue and yellow spots on her wings. She flew to a big sunflower. Her wings glowed in the sunlight. She heard a noise nearby. It was a little girl. She was crying.

Butterfly : What's the matter ?

Little girl : I'm very unhappy. I think I'm ugly. I have no friends and can't play with anyone.

Butterfly : You're not ugly. No child is ugly.

Little girl : Do you think so ? Everyone loves you because you are beautiful.

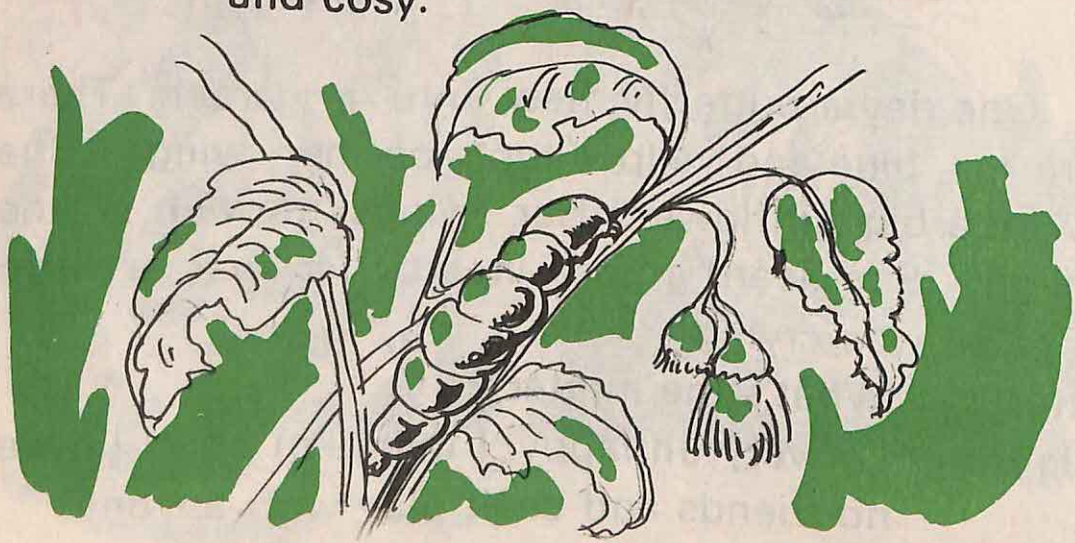
Butterfly : I was not born like this. At first I was grey, short and fat. My mother hid me under a leaf. She didn't want anyone to hurt me or laugh at me. She told me to be good and kind.

Little girl : Were you good and kind ?

Butterfly : Well, I tried to be, and one day I changed into a beautiful green caterpillar. There was food all round me. I could eat as much as I liked. Then I went to sleep.

Little girl : And then what happened ?

Butterfly : Some fairies came and built a lovely silk house for me. They named it 'Pupa'. it covered me completely and kept me warm and cosy.



Little girl : Did you live there for a long time ?

Butterfly : Yes, till I grew too big for it. Meanwhile I had a pair of wings. I opened the door of the pupa and came out. The sun smiled at me and the flowers called out to me. Their love and friendliness coloured my wings.

Little girl : (happy again). I will also be good and kind and I will also become beautiful.

Just then another little girl came into the garden. "Mala, where are you ? We are waiting for you. Come and play with us." Mala smiled. Her brown eyes sparkled. The sunshine made her cheeks pink. "Good-bye and thank you, dear butterfly," she cried. And she ran to play with her friends.

EXERCISES

Answer these questions :

1. Why was the little girl crying ?
2. Was the butterfly beautiful when it was born ?
3. What was the pupa ?
4. What happened to the green caterpillar while she was in the pupa ?
5. What coloured the wings of the butterfly ?
6. Why did Mala's eyes sparkle ?

4. I WILL RELEASE YOU ON ONE CONDITION

Once Akbar was very angry with Birbal and put him in prison. After a few days the King went to inspect the prison. He saw Birbal sitting in one corner of his cell and he felt sorry for him. "Birbal," said the King, "I'll release you on one condition." "What's your condition, Your Highness?" asked Birbal. The King said, "Bring me a horse that is neither black nor white, nor brown, nor grey." "I promise," said Birbal, "I'll find such a horse in a week's time." The King released Birbal.

After four days Birbal came to the King. Akbar asked him, "Where's the horse?" Birbal replied, "It's in a village, Your Highness. Please send someone to bring it. But please do not send him either on Monday, or on Tuesday, or on Wednesday, or on Thursday, or on Friday, or on Saturday, or on Sunday."

The King laughed: "You've won Birbal," he said. "I forgive you. Please come back to court."

EXERCISES

I. Answer these questions :

1. Why did Akbar feel sorry for Birbal ?
2. Is there a horse which is neither black nor white nor brown nor grey ?
3. Did Birbal find a horse for the King ?

II. Say whether the following sentences are *right* or *wrong*.

1. Akbar went to prison to see Birbal.
2. Birbal brought a horse to Akbar's court.
3. Birbal asked Akbar not to send his man to bring the horse on any day of the week.
4. Akbar was pleased because Birbal paid him back in his own coin.

5. WHY DID THE MONKEY MAKE FACES ?

Doctor Elephant was very able and popular. Sick animals went to him in the mornings. They stood in a line and often moaned in pain. There was a baby monkey on a tree top near this dispensary. He watched these animals from the tree top and had great fun.

One morning there was a long queue. The giraffe had a stiff neck. Poor giraffe had a long neck and the whole of it was stiff. He was screaming in pain. The bear had a stomach ache. He had eaten

a lot of honey at his friend's house. The centipede had a fall and had sprained a foot. He had a hundred feet and he could not make out which foot he had sprained. The owl had broken her glasses and came to get a new pair. The little monkey watched them from his home.

Doctor Elephant was a kind old doctor. He bandaged the giraff's neck. He gave a bottle of medicine to the bear. The medicine was red and looked delicious. The monkey stopped the bear and asked for a sip. The medicine was sweet and delicious. He wished he had a stomach ache too.

He thought of a plan. He rushed to the doctor and cried out in pain, "Doctor, oh doctor, please help me. I have a stomach ache." The doctor gave him a bottle of the same sweet medicine. The monkey ran up to his tree top and drank it all up and was happy.

Now he went to the doctor every week. He said, "My stomach ache is still bad. Oh! doctor, please do something about it." The doctor felt sorry and increased the quantity of the medicine. One day a kangaroo came to the doctor. He had sprained his tail. He watched the monkey. He knew the monkey was playing a trick. When the monkey left, he told the doctor.

Next week the monkey went to the doctor. Doctor Elephant said, "I'm sorry to know you still have a stomach ache. Today I'll give you a big bottle of medicine. Let me see if that helps ?" The monkey was very happy. He rushed to his tree top. All the animals were watching him. He opened the bottle and drank up all the medicine. The animals cried out, "Oh ! Look at him. He is making faces." Dr Elephant smiled.

Can you tell me why the monkey made faces ?

EXERCISES

I. Put a (✓) mark against the correct sentences and a (×) against the incorrect ones.

1. The animals liked Dr Elephant because he gave them sweet medicine.
2. The baby monkey had a stomach ache so he went to Dr Elephant.
3. The kangaroo found out that the monkey was playing a trick.
4. Dr Elephant punished the monkey for playing a trick on him.
5. It never pays to be naughty. This was true in the case of the monkey.

II. *Answer the following :*

1. Why did the baby monkey go to Dr Elephant ?
2. Why did the monkey make faces ?

6. THE RAIN DROPS LEARNT A LESSON

There was only one white cloud in the sky. It wanted a friend to play with, so it drifted away in search of a friend. It met another little cloud. It was grey. It looked wet and unhappy. It was full to the brim with rain drops. The rain drops argued and fought all day long. They splashed and spluttered at each other and made a lot of noise. The white cloud did not like this noise. It could not play with the grey cloud.

The grey cloud warned the rain drops several times. It said, "Be quiet and stop quarrelling. I can't stand it any more." But the rain drops did not listen to him. They pushed each other. A few were pushed over to the side and fell down on to the earth. The people on the earth were happy. They thought that it was going to rain, but it did not.

Later the two clouds came to a desert. The raindrops had not stopped their quarrelling. The grey cloud said, "Now I'll teach them a lesson." It began to cry hard. It cried and cried till it was all empty. The quarrelsome raindrops lay still in the desert in a little pond.

The grey cloud was now light and white. It drifted away happily with his friend, the white cloud.

EXERCISES

I. *Put a (✓) against the correct answers.*

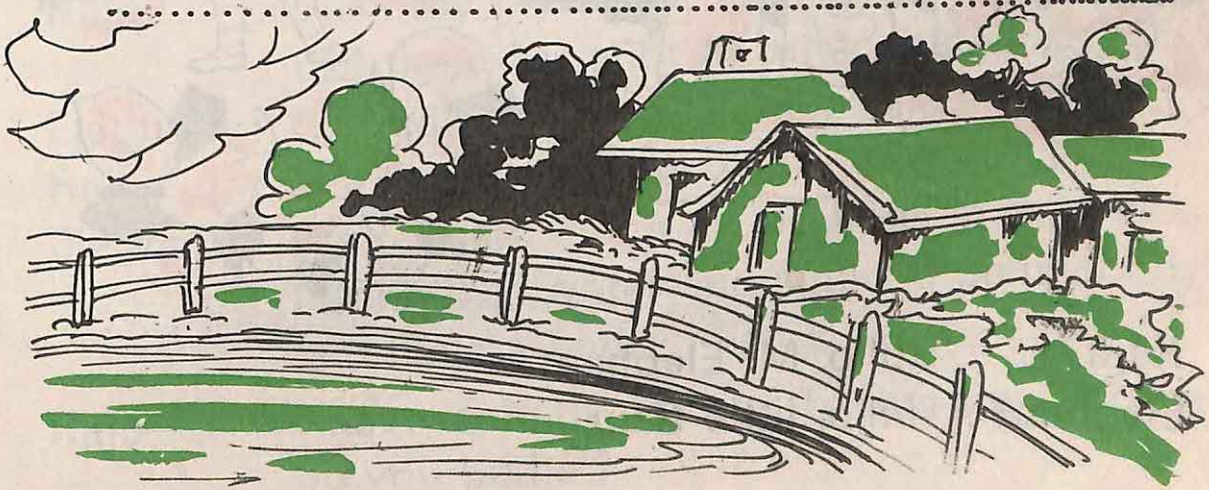
1. The grey cloud was full to the brim with
   - (i) tears
   - (ii) clouds
   - (iii) rain drops
2. The white cloud wanted a friend
   - (i) to quarrel with
   - (ii) to play with
   - (iii) to dance with
3. The quarrelsome rain drops lay in a pond in the desert
   - (i) crying
   - (ii) quarrelling
   - (iii) quietly
4. The grey cloud cried and cried and was now
   - (i) sad
   - (ii) heavy
   - (iii) light and happy

II. Imagine yourself to be the grey cloud and rewrite the story.

Begin : I'm a grey cloud. I'm very unhappy. I'm full to the.....

.....

.....



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7. YOU ARE BIG, MR ELEPHANT

Raju : Hullo, Mr Elephant.
Elephant : Hullo, little Raju.

Raju : Why do you call me 'little' ?

Elephant : You ARE little. You're not even as big as one of my legs.

Raju : Yes, that's true. You ARE big. Do you drink a lot of milk ?

Elephant : Don't be silly. I don't drink milk. I eat grass and leaves.

Raju : Grass and leaves are not tasty.

Elephant : But I like them. My favourite food, however, is bananas.

Raju : I also like bananas. Mr Elephant, you don't have hands like me. How do you eat your food ?

Elephant : I've got a trunk. Look, it touches my feet. I pick up my food with my trunk and put it in my mouth. I do a lot of other things with it too.

Raju : I use my hands for eating food and I also use them for a lot of other things.

Elephant : Can you fill water in your hands ?

Raju : (surprised) No, I can't.

Elephant : Well, I can, I fill a lot of water in my trunk. I drink that water and squirt it on my body and have a bath.

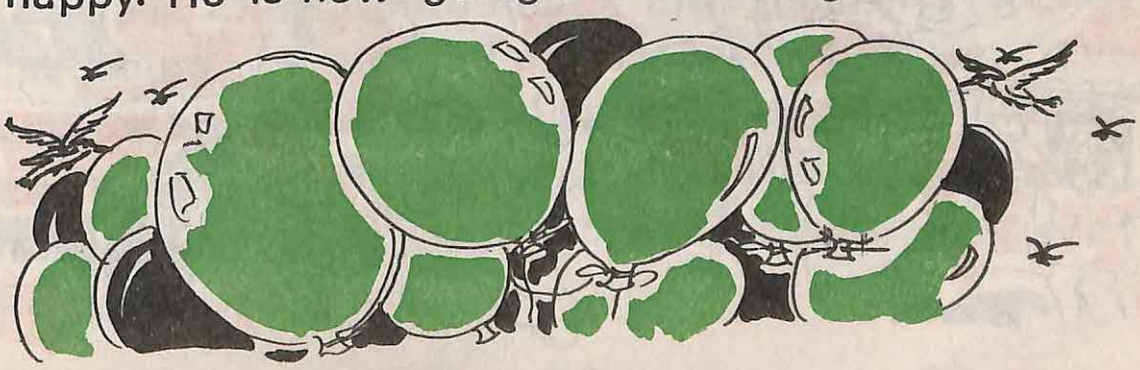
Raju : I have a bath in my bathroom. Where do you bathe ?

8. FLOATING IN THE AIR

Look at Mast Ram. He is a cheerful old balloon seller. He is carrying a stick with different coloured balloons tied to it. They are all gas balloons. There are many people in the fair. Mast Ram is shouting happily, "Please come and buy my balloons."

Zzzzz. There is a strong breeze."I hope"says Mast Ram to himself "I am not blown away." The wind is tugging at the bunch of balloons. Mast Ram is looking for a safer place. Look ! The wind is tugging hard at the bunch and it is sweeping it off the ground. Mast Ram is delighted ! He is floating in the air. "Oh; what fun !" he says. He is not frightened. He is looking around him and down at the village. The houses look like tiny dots and the men in the market like ants moving forwards and backwards. He is laughing and saying "What fun !" Now he wants to get back to the earth, but he can't for the wind is still strong. "Little birds", he is calling out, "come to me. Please, prick my balloons one by one and help me to land." The birds prick the balloons one by one. They think it a good game. Mast Ram with the few balloons is slowly coming down to the earth.

A number of people have gathered at the fair. They are cheering Mast Ram. He is excited and happy. He is now going home smiling.

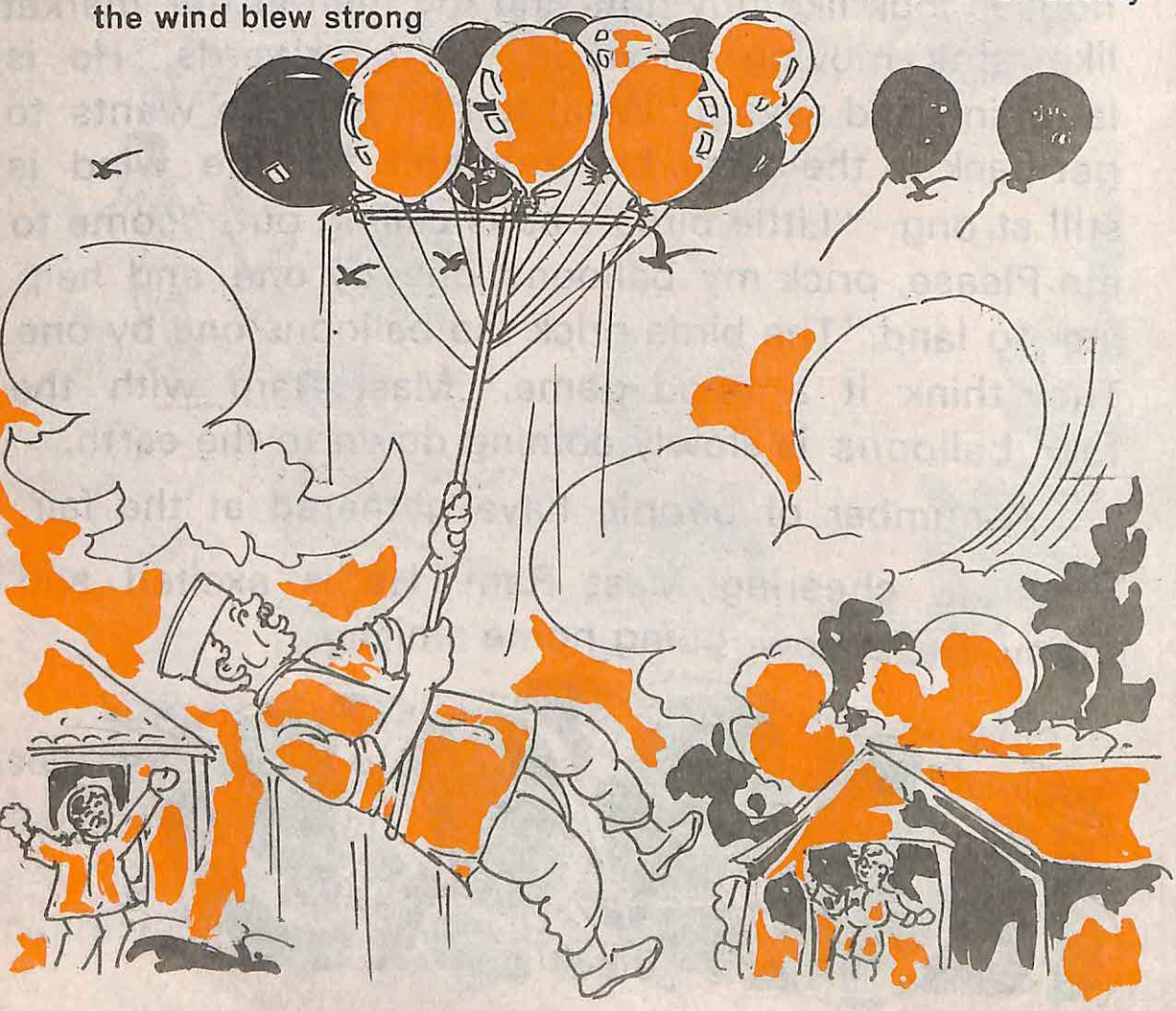


EXERCISES

I. Put a (✓) against the correct sentences and a (X) against the incorrect ones.

1. Mast Ram was a cheerful old man.
2. The strong wind blew away the bunch of balloons.
3. The birds helped Mast Ram to land.
4. Mast Ram went home with all his balloons.
5. Mast Ram enjoyed his flight.

II. Imagine yourself to be Mast Ram and rewrite the story. Begin : One day I went to sell my gas balloons in the market. Suddenly the wind blew strong



9. THE KING AND THE SPIDER

Bruce was the king of Scotland. He was a good king but he had some enemies. Once the English invaded his kingdom. They had a big army. Bruce fought bravely but he was defeated. He had to run from the battlefield. He came to a forest and hid himself in a cave. He sat on a stone and felt very sad and dejected. He thought of his defeat. He lay back on the stone and saw a spider. It was weaving a cobweb. It was trying to reach the ceiling of the cave but couldn't. It tried six times but did not succeed. The seventh time it tried again and reached the ceiling. "Bravo, little insect," cried Bruce. "I've learnt a lesson from you. I'll try again and fight the enemy." He went to his people. His soldiers gathered around him. They fought with the English and won the battle.

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following questions :

(1) Who invaded Bruce's kingdom ?

(2) Why did Bruce run away from the battlefield ?

(3) What lesson did Bruce learn from the spider ?

(4) Did Bruce win the second battle against the English ?

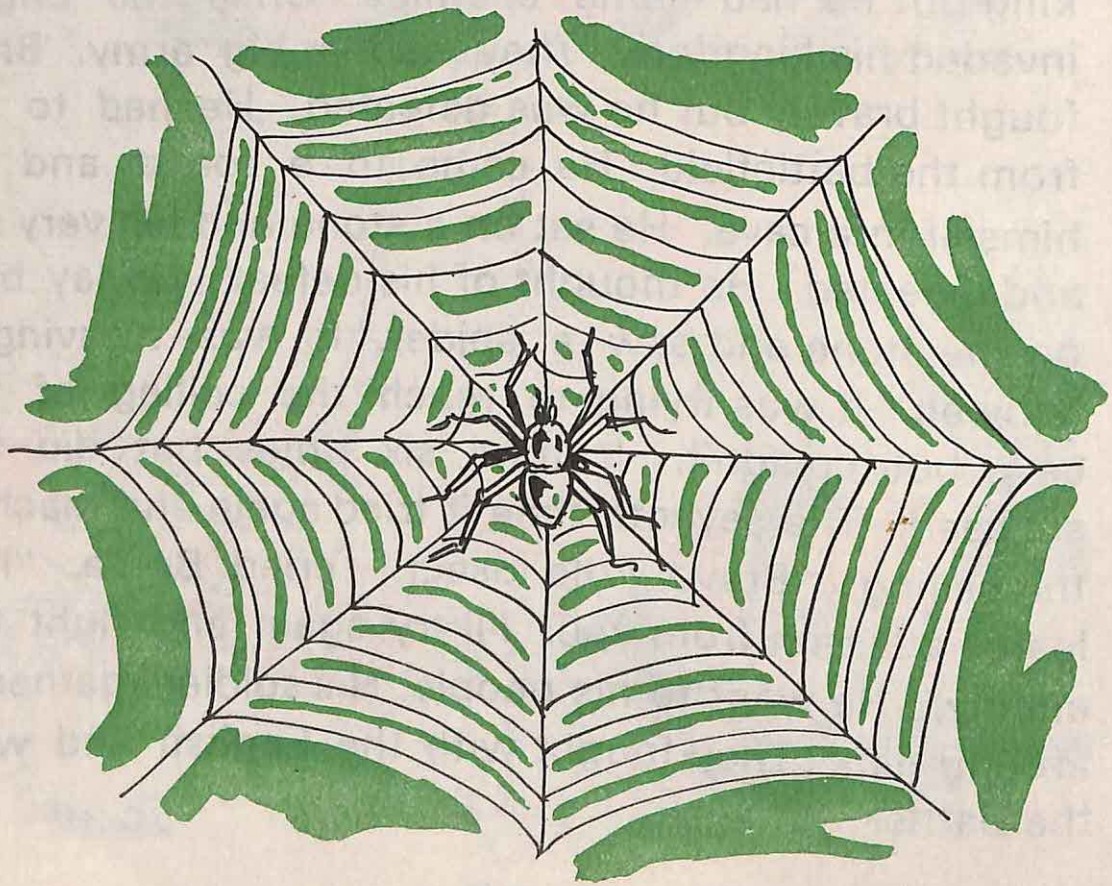
II. Put a (✓) against the correct sentences and a (×) against the incorrect ones.

(1) Bruce lost his battle because he had a small army.

(2) The spider was tired the seventh time and gave up weaving the cobweb.

(3) Bruce won the battle the second time.

(4) Try again and again for success.

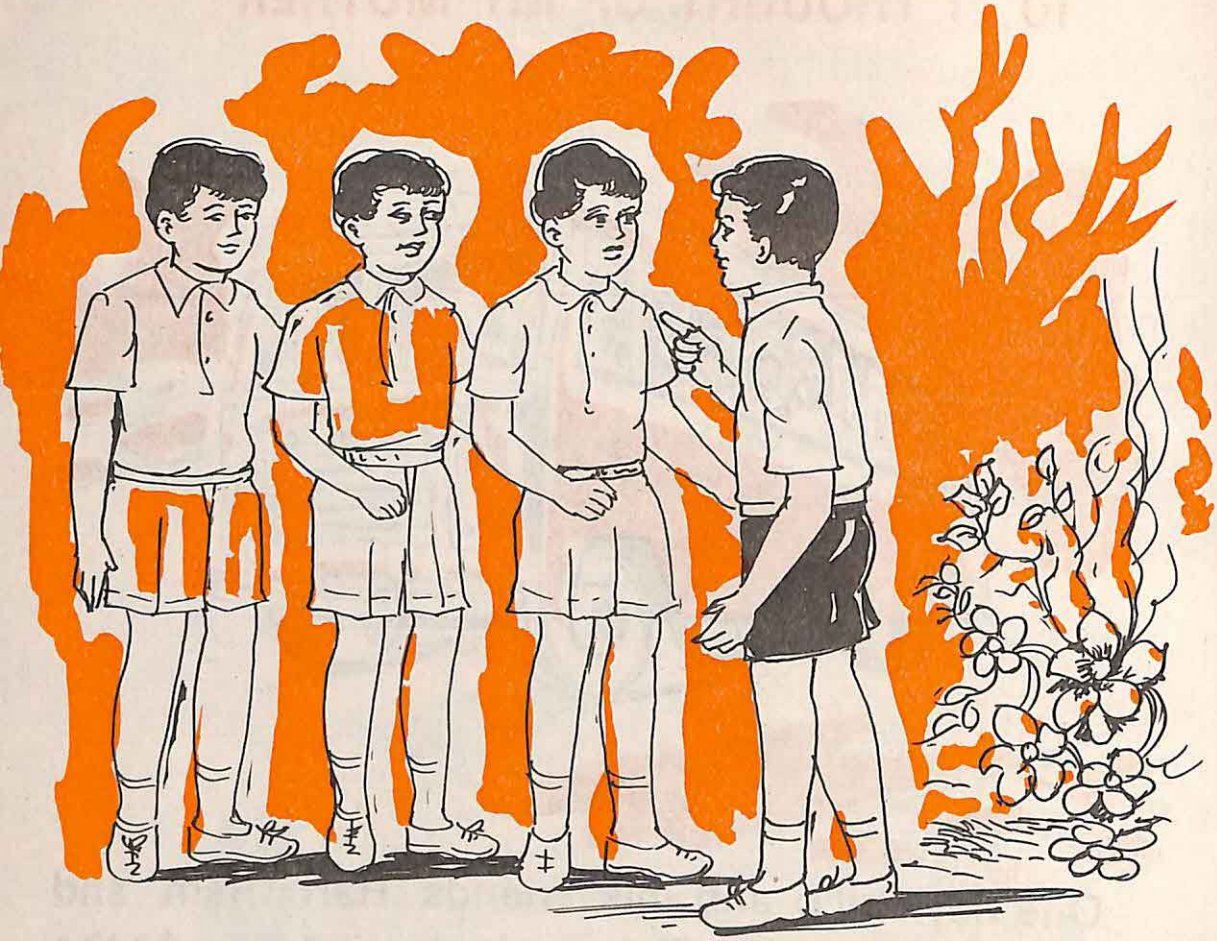


10. I THOUGHT OF MY MOTHER

One day Dalip and his friends Hari, Ram and Krishan got into a bus. They sat in the first row. At the next stop a number of people got into the bus and it became crowded. An old woman stood near them. There was no place for her to sit.

The boys saw her. Hari looked out of the window; Ram started reading a book; Krishan closed his eyes and pretended to be asleep. But Dalip stood up. "Please come and sit here, Madam," he said.

"Thank you, my child," said the woman, and sat down. The boys got off at the next stop.



"Dalip," said Hari, "You must be tired. You had to stand. I saw the old woman but I pretended I hadn't seen her. I looked out of the window." Ram said, "I too pretended I hadn't seen her. I read a book."

"I pretended to be asleep," said Krishan.

"I couldn't pretend," said Dalip. "I saw the old woman and I thought of my mother."

EXERCISES

I. *Answer these :*

(1) What were the names of the four friends ?

(2) What did Hari, Ram and Krishan do when they saw the old woman ?

(3) Who gave up his seat to the old woman ?

(4) What reason did Dalip give for his action ?

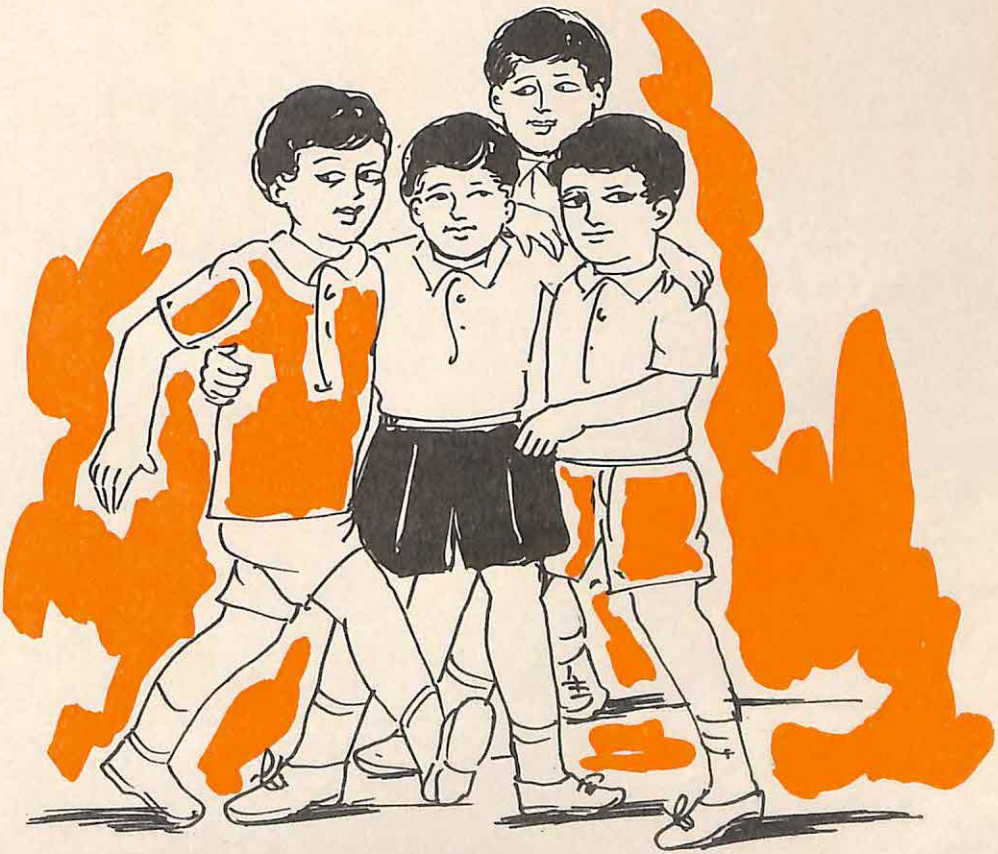
II. **Select the most suitable words from those given in brackets :**

(a) Ram, Hari and Krishan were (bad, selfish).

(b) Dalip was (nice, kind).

(c) Dalip's mother was (young, old).

(d) Dalip (loved, liked) his mother.



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